Remarks:

Claims 2-17, 26-41, 50, 51, 60-70, 77-87, and 98 were rejected under §102 as being anticipated by the INSS article, and under §103, as being obvious in view of the INSS article. A response to this rejection has been previously filed, along with support for the priority date claimed for these.

Claims 2-17, 26-41, 50, 51, 60-70, 77-87, and 98 remain in the application.

Claims 18-25, 42-49, 52-59, 71-76, and 88-97 were previously presented in this application before a restriction requirement and are now rejoined in this application. Claims 18-20 and 22-24 are also currently amended. Support for the priority date claimed for these was acknowledged when this application was first allowed.

Claims 99-170 are new to this application. Support for the priority date of the parent application for these claims is provided below.

Claims 171-191 are new to this application but were originally presented in application Serial Number 09/702,050 but were eliminated from that application by a restriction requirement. Claims 171-191 are thus new to this application. Support for the priority date claimed for these was acknowledged when the 09/702,050 application was originally allowed.

Claims 192-215 are new to this application. Support for the priority date of the parent application for these claims is provided below.

Claims 216-245 were originally filed in application serial number 09/702,128, which has temporarily been lost in the Patent office. Claims 216-245 are new to this application. Support for the priority date of the parent application for these claims was acknowledged when these claims were originally allowed in application serial number 09/702,128.

Claims 246-261 are new to this application. Support for the priority date of the parent application for these claims is provided below.

Claims 2-261 remain in this application.

Priority.

Applicants claim the priority of the earlier filed parent applications, and in particular, the priority of issued US Patent Number 6,141,653.

For claims 99-140, support for "indicating changes in the terms by storing changed terms in the storage space" is found in US Patent Number 6,141,653 at Col. 23, lines 38-41:

Thus, the present invention enables the collection and storing of negotiations and results data in a highly secure hosting environment over a public network. [Emphasis added]

and at Col. 24, lines 18-21:

Multivariate negotiations engine 212 <u>keeps track of each set of changes</u> and can display them so that the <u>changes proposed at each step of the negotiations are clearly and accurately recorded</u>.[Emphasis added]

In claims 101 and 122, support for the phrase "access and configuration data supplied

through remote web authoring functions and sponsored community rules" is found at

Col. 22, lines 39-57:

As will be apparent to those skilled in the art, if a sponsor or a participant wishes to have some of the applicable system software installed locally, this can also be done. A sponsor 06, for example, may have already spent half a million dollars or more creating its own Website and would prefer to operate the community from there. This can be accomplished with the present invention by installing the invention's core libraries on the sponsor's Webserver just as it is installed at multivariate negotiations engine system 02's site. A sponsor desiring such local installation would usually require a firewall and database server locally, too, dedicated to the community. Once these are in place the present invention can be installed at the sponsor's site in the same way it is installed at multivariate negotiations engine system 02's site. <u>Depending on the configuration</u> desired by the sponsor for the local site, additional customization may be required. [Emphasis added]

and at Cols. 28, lines 66-67 and Cols. 29, lines 1-12:

As seen in Figure 6, the <u>sponsor functions 213-04 are also involved in the remote Web authoring functions 214-02.</u> At step 490, after sponsor determines the seller is in good standing, sponsor register's seller's company name, products and other data with the community's internal search engine. Next, at step 505, sponsor registers the seller's name with Internic, the corporation established for assigning domain names and URLs. At step 510, sponsor automatically submits seller's name and data to major external search engines on the Internet. At step 515<u>, the sponsor completes the integration of the new seller into the community,</u> enables it for active status, includes it at the top of the list of any vendor databases and allows the seller's Website <u>access to the online community's functions.</u>[Emphasis added]

In Claims 102 and 123, support for the phrase "media and formatting choices is found at

Col. 18, lines 18-37:

Commonly available video conferencing and other <u>multi-media techniques</u> can be added to multivariate negotiations engine system 02. For these embodiments, it is possible that both sponsors and participants would have to add hardware or software for the multi-media features at their sites, if such features are not already present.

Figure 1h illustrates the use of commonly available <u>videoconferencing</u> equipment such as a camera positioned at the top of a monitor connected to a simple desktop computer. With existing videoconferencing products, an image I1 of a participant at another site is displayed on the monitor at the same time the Web browser interface W1 to multivariate negotiations engine system 02 displays a list of the terms being negotiated. Those skilled in the art appreciate that most existing videoconferencing products also include <u>voice communications</u> as well. Thus, the negotiating participants can see and hear each other and the complex, multiple variables they are negotiating at the same time. Multivariate negotiations engine system 02 <u>can archive the multimedia sessions as video and audio files to be stored with the text</u>. [Emphasis added]

and at Col. 33, lines 7-19:

Typical sponsor vendor database Dbb <u>includes text, images, sound files, etc.. When information from one or more of these databases is called for, the present invention pulls such associated files and graphics for display to the requestor</u>. Typical sponsor 06 databases 225 also include demographic data about registered sellers, such as company name, title, and locations. <u>If certificates of authenticity, customer identification numbers, or electronic signatures such as those conventionally used for non repudiation purposes are collected, they can also be stored in a sponsor database 225</u>. Consequently, the services available from a typical sponsor 06 using the present invention, can make production purchasing more efficient for a buyer and provide direct access to potential buyers for all registered sellers. [Emphasis added]

For new Claims 141-162 support for the term "workgroup" is found in the parent

specification, US Patent 6,141,653 at Col. 2, lines 45-46:

Corporations that <u>share information internally</u> can also use <u>workgroup software</u> such as IBM's LOTUS NOTES™ software on the <u>internal network</u>. [Emphasis added]

and Col. 17, lines 34-56:

Multivariate negotiations engine system 02 can be used for other types of sponsored communities where <u>interactive, iterative negotiations of a number of interrelated, variable items amongst the participants over the Internet</u> is desired.

For example, <u>manufacturers</u> in the computer industry might want to agree on a set of multi-part, multi-tiered <u>industry standards</u> for a new computer bus. A computer industry association or a standards association might be the community sponsor, and the computer and peripheral manufacturers might be the participants who need to

iteratively negotiate with each other and/or the standards body to agree upon the standards. The sponsoring standards body establishes the community, proposes initial standards, sets the rules for negotiations, encourages and monitors negotiations, and concludes with a finally agreed upon set of standards, with each step of each negotiation that occurred along the way archived. Since no additional hardware or software needs to be installed at the sponsor's site or at those of any of the participants, the present invention provides a much more economical and speedy way to <u>negotiate complex, multivariate items such as complex standards specifications. [Emphasis added]</u>

For new Claims 192-209, support for the phrase "sponsor authority for assigning a

unique identifier to a negotiation" is found in the parent US Patent No. 6,141,653 at Col.

21, lines 39-45:

<u>Unique id's feature 222-02 is used to insure the proper data is found and transmitted.</u> That is, the present invention associates <u>unique identifiers (id's) with each sponsor, participant, and type of data or transaction.</u> Since database functions 222 are integrated directly with the other functions of the invention, faster processing and updating of the database is enabled. [Emphasis added]

For new Claims 192-209, support for the phrase "application programming interface

functions" is found in the parent US Patent No. 6, 141,653 at Col. 20, lines 64-67 and Col.

21, lines 1-20:

Another external function 211 of the present invention shown in Figure 1m, is the ability to incorporate <u>application programming interfaces (API's) 211-04.</u> Since the present invention is designed from the "outside looking in" (from the network looking into the enterprise) as it were, the data from transactions completed using it might have to be transferred manually to internal seller and buyer system formats without API 211-04 functions. <u>With API 211-04 functions, the data that is stored internally by the present invention, can be reformatted by an API designed for a particular seller or buyer's internal systems.</u> For example, if a seller has accepted all the terms of an open buying agreement against which a buyer has now placed an order, the <u>seller might use an API 211-04 to "translate" that data into a format the seller's internal ERP systems can accept for order processing.</u> For many participants and sponsors, <u>standard APIs 211-04 can be created to interface with standard internal ERP systems, such as ORACLE or SAP Corporations' databases and so on.</u> For other participants and sponsors, custom API's may need to be created to interface the present invention with their existing internal systems. In all cases, however, no API's are required to enable sponsors and

participants to use the services provided by multivariate negotiations engine 212. [Emphasis added]

For new claims 210-215, support for the phrase "sponsored community software for

specifying rules and procedures for at least one community" is found at Col. 28, lines

39-50:

With reference now to Figure 1j, a diagram of the sponsor functions 213 is shown. Generally speaking, a sponsor 06 builds a community and establishes its rules 213-02. In one embodiment, a sponsor 06 can create the community Website from templates available from multivariate negotiation system 02's site. In other embodiments, a sponsor may have already invested millions of dollars in the creation of its own database(s) and Website, and simply wants to have the community enabled from there, using applications programming interfaces (API's) or the new XML language when it is standardized. The present invention permits either or both methods of creating or enabling a community Website. [Emphasis added]

and again at Col. 28, lines 51-65:

As seen in Figure 24, the rules or standards for the community can be as comprehensive or as simple as the sponsor 06 desires. For a commercial site, for example, sponsor 06 may want to require all sellers to be compliant with a particular standards organization's applicable quality standards, such as the International Standards Organization (ISO), shown as R1 here. Additionally, sponsor 06 may want to insure that all fees due to sponsor from sellers are paid in full and kept up to date- rule R5. As another example, a sponsor for a regional trade development community may want to insure that each seller is able to handle importing and exporting of goods - - rule R3, meets some specified minimum performance capabilities such as rule R6, just in-time capability or rule R7, bar code processing, or rule R8, ability to handle specified payment methods. [Emphasis added]

and again at Col. 32, lines 54-59:

A typical sponsor 06's administrative database DBa, in Figure 1f, includes such things as templates, procedures, and charges for registering new sellers, procedures for recognizing and assigning passwords to buyers, procedures for automatic renewal, details of each sellers required banking information, and so on. [Emphasis added]

For new claims 246-261, support for the phrase "sponsor procedures for configuring the

display" is found as mentioned above, at Col. 32, lines 54-59:

A typical sponsor 06's administrative database DBa, in Figure 1f, includes such things as templates, <u>procedures</u>, and charges for registering new sellers, <u>procedures</u> for recognizing and assigning passwords to buyers, <u>procedures</u> for automatic renewal, details of each sellers required banking information, and so on. [Emphasis added]

and again at Col. 22, lines 39-57:

As will be apparent to those skilled in the art, if a sponsor or a participant wishes to have some of the applicable system software installed locally, this can also be done. A sponsor 06, for example, may have already spent half a million dollars or more creating its own Website and would prefer to operate the community from there. This can be accomplished with the present invention by installing the invention's core libraries on the sponsor's Webserver just as it is installed at multivariate negotiations engine system 02's site. A sponsor desiring such local installation would usually require a firewall and database server locally, too, dedicated to the community. Once these are in place the present invention can be installed at the sponsor's site in the same way it is installed at multivariate negotiations engine system 02's site. <u>Depending on the configuration</u> desired by the sponsor for the local site, additional customization may be required. [Emphasis added]

and again at Col. 21, lines 21-38:

Now turning to Figure 1n, database functions 222 are shown. First, <u>database functions 222 are able to communicate with all other functions and services</u> of the present invention and vice-versa. For example, as a remote Web authoring 214-02 <u>request is</u> handled by participant functions 214, Webserver software 210s fields the request and communicates it through IP firewall 203 f to database functions 222, asking the database server software managing database functions 222 to <u>process the request and return the appropriate information.</u> The database server software performs searches, analysis, and any computations needed to hand back the correct data. Webserver software 210s <u>formats the returned data, and through conventional common gateway interface scripting techniques, creates dynamic HTML (or XML or Java or Java-compatible, etc.) text for ultimate display.</u> This formatted data, in turn, is transmitted to the appropriate sponsor or participants' browsers over the Internet. [Emphasis added]

Applicants respectfully submit that all bases for rejections have been overcome in

applicants earlier response to this office action, and that Claims 2-261 are in condition

for allowance and entitled to the priority date claimed.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants' Attorney respectfully requests that if she can be of any further assistance in putting all the claims in condition for allowance that she be reached by telephone at 508-653-8143 in order to discuss the application with the Examiner, so that any new objections or rejections may be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

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